

Greater Los Angeles Federal Executive Board

News-At-A-Glance JANUARY 2000



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This publication is prepared by the staff of the Greater Los Angeles Federal Executive Board. Its content is extracted from information received in the FEB Office and gleaned from public information sources. Please forward your agency newsletter or "news items" to the FEB Office for inclusion in future FEB News-at-a-Glance editions.

BEST BUDDIES: FEDS AND SCHOOL CHILDREN

Los Angeles Area After School Resource Fair

Inspired by Vice President Gore's National Partnership for Reinventing Government - America Goes Back to School Initiative, a strong partnership is being forged between our local schoolchildren & Federal employees. To strengthen this bond, your FEB invited 2000 schools from the 83 School Districts operating in Los Angeles County, to this Fair on November 10, at the 112th Street Elementary School in Los Angeles.

After the opening ceremony & speeches, over 20 local Federal agencies & almost 20 non-profit & local government agencies, (e.g., LA's BEST After School Enrichment program,) staffed tables, visited by large numbers of parents, children, teachers, & school officials. Exhibitors demonstrated what is offered to local schoolchildren, particularly after school, when crime, drug & alcohol use, & teenage pregnancy are more common among unsupervised children, whose parents may be at work. Examples of agency resources include Department of Justice Juvenile Urban Mentoring Program (JUMP) grants, Department of Education Afterschool Programs, Department of Agriculture after-school snacks, NASA scientific tutoring, Department of Labor job training, National Park Service recreation programs, & retired computer equipment donations from many agencies. Morley Winograd, Director, National Partnership for Reinventing Government, noted, "Virtually every Federal agency can help keep our country's youth safe, healthy, & engaged." Check <http://www.afterschool.gov> for more information.



FBI Swears In Junior Special Agents

Los Angeles is fortunate to have **James DeSarno** as *FBI* Assistant Director in Charge. When he was stationed in Washington, D.C., he conceived & started the FBI Adopt-A-School Program, which has grown from DeSarno's first school to 175 nationwide. School 175 is Dickinson Elementary School in Compton, where DeSarno swore in 32 fifth-graders as Junior

Special Agents on November 9. The new agents pledged to be good citizens, obey all laws, do their best & stay in school, remain drug free, & practice "non-violent behavior in handling difficult situations." While learning about crime prevention, the new agents have enjoyed an FBI Office Field Trip, a SWAT Demonstration, a recreational field trip, & holiday party.



Greater L.A. Federal Volunteer Corps (FVC)

Nineteen percent of the causes supported by FVC members involve children. Examples follow:

- ★ **James Small** of the *National Labor Relations Board* reads to first-graders at the Ekstrand Elementary School & helps them conduct their first elections.
- ★ **Elton Campbell** (*Defense Contract Management District West*) has spent 100 hours annually donating computer tutorial expertise & substantial equipment to 1352 students at the Albert Monroe Magnet School in Inglewood.
- ★ **Rico Cabrera** of the *Immigration and Naturalization Service* has volunteered up to 200 hours annually for the last 15 years at the Hollenbeck Youth Center, officiating at boys' & girls' basketball games involving 500 to 1000 youths.
- ★ **Daphne Dixon** of the *Social Security Administration* donates time to San Pedro's Top Sail Youth Program for "at-risk" youths.
- ★ Led by **Linda Bailey**, *U.S. Trustee* employees visit schools like the Washington Preparatory High School in south central L.A., teaching students goal setting & financial planning.



CENSUS 2000

On April 1, 1999, President Clinton issued a memorandum to all Agency and Executive Department Heads, directing them to develop action plans to support the "Census Bureau's mission of conducting a fair, accurate, and complete Census 2000." Expanding public education and promoting the importance of Census 2000; refraining from initiating household surveys from 3/1/00 to 6/30/00; helping to recruit census workers; and transferring excess furnishings and providing space and equipment to local census offices are the minimum actions required of Federal offices.

34 Federal Programs Use Census Data

Over \$180 billion in Federal grants, payments, and loans are distributed through over 30 programs, based on Census population data. Some program purposes affecting us in the L.A. area include:

- ◆ Mass transportation financing
- ◆ Adult Education funding to states
- ◆ Air pollution control standards assistance
- ◆ Empowerment Zone establishment
- ◆ Emergency food and shelter funds
- ◆ Transportation financing for persons with disabilities & the elderly
- ◆ Education access for homeless children
- ◆ Health Education and Training Center establishment & operation
- ◆ Local school improvement in teaching at-risk or failing students

Head Start, which provides comprehensive services to disadvantaged preschool children, has received over \$3.5 billion dollars. Because of prior census undercounts, particularly of people in lower socioeconomic groups, Census 2000 is taking extra steps to reach traditionally-undercounted populations.

Other Census Uses

- ◆ School district boundaries
- ◆ Economic trend analysis & forecasting
- ◆ Fair rent establishment & fair lending enforcement
- ◆ Urban planning
- ◆ Understanding labor supply
- ◆ Analyzing local trends
- ◆ Analyzing military potential
- ◆ Decision-making & budgeting by state & local government
- ◆ Estimating the number of people displaced by natural disasters
- ◆ Assessing the potential for communicable disease spread
- ◆ Making business decisions
- ◆ Delivering goods & services to local markets
- ◆ Understanding consumer needs
- ◆ Planning for congregations
- ◆ Product planning
- ◆ Locating factory sites & distribution centers
- ◆ Investment planning & financial risk evaluation
- ◆ Setting community goals
- ◆ Standard for creating public & private sector surveys
- ◆ Scientific research
- ◆ Comparing progress between different geographic areas
- ◆ Genealogical research (records released 72 years after collection)

- ◆ Proof of age, relationship or residence (Census Bureau provides certificates)
- ◆ School projects
- ◆ Medical research
- ◆ Media planning & research
- ◆ Historical research
- ◆ Litigation evidence involving land use, voting rights & equal opportunity
- ◆ Attracting new businesses to states and local areas
- ◆ Non-profit organization estimates of potential volunteers

Technological Revolution

In 1890, it was keypunch cards; in 1950, UNIVAC I, the first civilian-use mainframe electronic computer, made its debut; Census 2000 will be the first fully computerized census, from collecting data to releasing the final results on the Internet. Internet will give millions the tools to construct a digital picture of America down to any one of 7 million census blocks.

For the first time, the data capture process will use optical scanners that can read pen or pencil hand-printing to process the questionnaires returned. But the scanners are just one component of the system developed in partnership with Lockheed-Martin Mission Systems. Lockheed is using commercially available sorters, scanners and processors -- rather than developing expensive new hardware and software -- in a system called Data Capture System 2000 (DCS 2000). Within this system, the scanners will take electronic photos, or images, of the census forms. Then, the "photos" will be processed by software capable of recognizing an infinite variety of hand strokes as either alphabetic or numeric characters. After the characters are translated into computer code, the responses will be transmitted electronically to the Census Bureau headquarters complex for statistical processing and analysis.

More than 100 million questionnaires will flow through the DCS 2000 systems at four data capture centers around the country, (including one in Pomona, CA) established under a TRW Inc. contract. "Each center will employ between 1,500 and 2,000 people at the height of the census between March and July, 2000," according to Ann Gwynn of the Census Bureau's Data Capture Program. "TRW will be responsible for leasing, designing and building out space for the facilities, as well as hiring and training the workers who will operate DCS 2000."

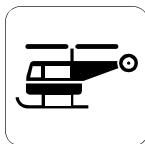
As the forms come into the data capture centers, the check-in will include manual forms removal & information about which households have responded so those that do not may be contacted. Next, forms will be fed into the digital scanners. The resulting images are sent to sophisticated computer processors for quality assessment. Only then are the data "read" from the form. The goal is to minimize expensive manual keying operations and process the forms faster -- as much as 20 times faster.

With Census 2000 making it possible for anyone to log on to the same data used by government officials and interest groups, America will move closer to becoming an Internet Society -- a perpetual town-meeting in cyberspace.

Call 818 904 6522 in L.A. or check www.census.gov for more info.

Kudos

* To *DEA* agents who made their message about the perils of drug abuse memorable and exciting for MacArthur Elementary School students in Lakewood, when they arrived by helicopter.



* To *Coast Guard* personnel from the Cutters Hamilton (San Diego) & Steadfast (Oregon) for their alertness in capturing five Colombians with 2 ½ tons (street value \$205.3 million) of cocaine while on patrol. The smugglers were turned over to the *DEA*. The *Coast Guard* confiscated over 56,000 pounds of cocaine in 1999 in the eastern Pacific.

* To *L.A. Air Force Base* employee **Shalanda Baker** for being chosen Vice-Captain and playing so effectively as Fullback on the American Women's Rugby Team. **Ms. Baker** is also active in the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC).

* To *SBA Nevada* for a record-breaking Fiscal Year 1999, in which 461 *SBA*-guaranteed loans of \$131.8 million were funded by Nevada lenders for use by small businesses.

* To *Los Angeles Postal District* Clerk **Mary Grayson** for being chosen to attend the October White House Conference on Philanthropy as the representative of all Federal employees. She was introduced by President Clinton who highlighted her many years of giving and volunteering to coordinate the Combined Federal Campaign. One conference topic was how to get the younger generation involved in philanthropy.

* To *Coast Guard Administrative Law Judge* **Harry Gardner**, 75, (Long Beach) for his 36 years of service upon retirement in December. **Gardner** heard merchant marine cases, such as deciding the Exxon Valdez skipper's fitness as a sea captain. Prior to serving on the Federal bench, **Gardner** was in the merchant marine and *Coast Guard*.



* To the *USPS* for serving as an active partner in the National Bone Marrow Registry and, specifically, for its efforts to diversify the registry to provide successful matches for minority patients. Federal marrow donors receive 7 days paid time off.

PARTNERING

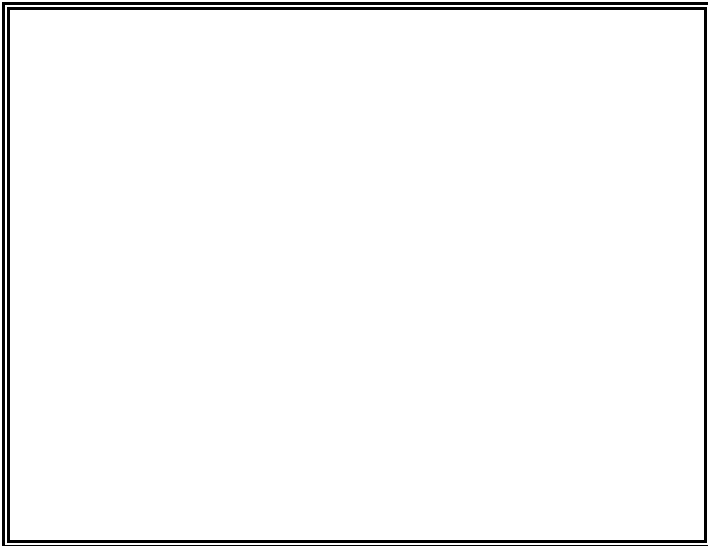
NASA's Jet Propulsion Lab in Pasadena is teaming with MCI WorldCom Inc., Mitre Corp., Global Science & Technology Inc., & Sparta Inc. to design the Interplanetary Network, an Internet-like system connecting Earth and other planets, like Mars.

The *FBI* is partnering with the *INS*, the *IRS*, the *Commerce Department*, the CA Highway Patrol, & local police departments to reduce the estimated \$1 million a day in port cargo stolen in the greater L.A. area (1/6 of U.S. cargo theft). The task force has already recovered over \$3 million in stolen goods & plans more raids.

Since 1993, L.A. Vets Westside Residence Hall in Inglewood has been a financially self-sustaining partnership of the *West L.A. VA Medical Center*, *AmeriCorps*, *HUD*, CA Economic Development Dept., Disabled American Veterans, Salvation Army, Century Housing Corp., City of Inglewood, & L.A. Veterans Initiative (CFC non-profit agency). It reintegrates into housing & employment, the greatest possible number of homeless veterans with the highest degree of independence in a minimum time period. Besides positive outcomes for the vets (95% are drug-free & sober at a given time), success is confirmed by income to the tax system (over \$1 million through 1997 in income and payroll taxes) & cost avoidance to the health care system (over \$12 million from reduced in-patient days, per controlled studies). While renting dormitory style housing, the vets benefit from a career center, classes, & counseling.

The *SBA* is working with the private sector to provide women entrepreneurs with the resources needed to start & succeed in business through its Women's Business Center Program. Twenty-five new sites bring the total to 80 nationwide. For info, check www.onlinewbc.org or call 800 8-ASK-SBA.

The *FBI* partners with Sprint Corp., Cylink Corp., Cisco Systems Inc., Visual Systems Inc., & state law enforcement agencies to operate its Criminal Justice Information Services network (digital fingerprints), to which other forensic data bases (DNA, ballistics, & automotive carpet fibers) are being added. Comparing data this way now takes hours, not weeks; no downtime has occurred in three years!



Communing on Commuting



- ♡ 80% of Southlanders commute alone.
- ♡ Average round trip commute: 32 miles.
- ♡ Average daily commute time: 69 minutes.
- ♡ Traffic delays cost us 76 hrs. & \$1,205 annually.
- ♡ SO CA traffic congestion grows 3% yearly.
- ♡ In the next 20 years, our population will increase from 19 to 26 million.
- ♡ Without changes, average rush-hour speed will drop from 35 to 15 mph by 2010.
- ♡ Rush hours total 7: 6 to 9 a.m. & 3 to 7 p.m.
- ♡ The L.A./Orange/Ventura County area has been first nationally in traffic congestion for 14 years.
- ♡ Southlanders breathe the worst air in the U.S., with most smog caused by motor vehicle emissions.

FEDS HELPING FEDS

Ted Hochalter (Denver *Department of Interior, Bureau of Reclamation*) not only saw his daughter, Anne Marie, confined to a wheelchair, as a result of the Columbine High School shooting, but also had to deal with his wife's death.

Carole Baca (20 years with *GSA*), in a wheelchair due to multiple sclerosis, had to give up her 1992, wheelchair-equipped Saturn sedan for a wheelchair-equipped van after shoulder surgery. She generously donated the Saturn to the FEEA (Federal Employee Education & Assistance Fund), a CFC agency.

The FEEA presented the Saturn to Anne Marie for her birthday (December 19) & the holidays. **Ted** took her to get her learner's permit & arranged for hand-control instruction at a rehabilitation hospital. The FEEA Director, **Steve Bauer**, said, "The smile on Anne Marie's face when she first saw the car made all the efforts to arrange this worth it. I look forward to the day soon when I will see Anne Marie driving to school in her new car. It is truly inspiring to see a young girl work to overcome such tough circumstances & to personally see the generosity of individuals mean so much to the recipient."

SANTA'S HELPER

For the last 10 years, **Roxie Cullison**, a Long Beach postal clerk with 30 years of service, has carried on a 77-year-old *USPS* tradition by reading & replying to about 2,000 letters to Santa yearly. For the neediest 2% of the letter-writers, Rosie or postal carriers verify they truly require help, before she finds sponsors to fulfill wishes for food, clothes, furniture, toys, medicine, Christmas trees, etc. Both families & businesses are sponsors. Rosie dedicates time beyond work hours to help as many people as possible, 60 to 90 families annually.

*The influence of a beautiful, helpful character is contagious,
and may revolutionize a whole town.*
Collier Graham